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M I N U T E S

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

21-25 September 1987

Meeting held in

Atlanta GA, USA

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FOREWORD

The Executive Committee was hosted by the Mayor of Atlanta, the Honorable Andrew Young, the Inter-denominational Theological Center (ITC) (Dr James Costen, President), and the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta (Revd Perry Ginn, Executive Director).

On Saturday 19 September, a Dialogue between Black Church leadership and the World Council of Churches, represented by members of the Executive Committee and staff, took place at Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta. The theme of the encounter was the Black Churches as integral to the life of the WCC and the WCC as vital to Black Churches.

On Sunday 20 September members of the Executive Committee and staff preached or brought greetings at services in parishes in and around Atlanta. In the afternoon an Ecumenical Service of Worship was held at the Central Presbyterian Church in which members of the Executive Committee and staff participated. The sermon was preached by the General Secretary. This service was followed by a Reception at City Hall hosted by Mayor Andrew Young and Mrs Jean Young.

On Wednesday 23 September the Committee was welcomed at Ebenezer Baptist Church by Mrs Coretta Scott King, and was hosted for lunch at the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Change.

Evening arrangements included a dinner hosted by the NCCCUSA on Friday 18 September; a dramatic presentation at the Inter-denominational Theological Center on Saturday 19 September; dinner with local churches and families on 23 September. On the evening of 25 September participants were invited to the Achor Center for supper hosted by the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, followed by Closing Worship at the United Baptist Church. Vice-Moderator Dr Sylvia Talbot and Bishop Frederick Talbot then gave a farewell reception at their home.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Atlanta GA, USA
20-25 September 1987

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

Morning worship on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday was led by Ms Jean Skuse, Dr Aaron Tolen, and Archbishop Khotso Makhulu. On Wednesday 23 September, members of the Executive Committee attended worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church. On Friday 25 September Dr Marga Bührig gave the meditation at a service planned by Revd Heikki Huttunen with students attending the meeting of the Association of Christian Theological Students (ACTS).

B. Small groups

The meeting convened at 9.00 on Monday 21 September in the Ramada Capitol Plaza Hotel and began with a session in which members and staff met in small groups to exchange information and views.

C. Opening session

At the official opening session, the Executive Committee was welcomed to Atlanta by Dr Perry Ginn, Executive Director of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, and Dr Don Leiter on behalf of the Georgia Council of Churches. Other guests included the President of the GCC, Bishop Frederick Talbot of the AME Church; Dr Romney Mosley, Associate Dean of the School of Theology of Emory University; Ms Patricia Erwins, past president of CCMA and president elect of GCC; Bishop John of the Atlanta Greek Orthodox Diocese, and other church leaders. The Moderator welcomed all visitors to the session.

D. Roll call

The General Secretary introduced all participants (Appendix I) and presented apologies from Patriarch Ignatios IV, Dame Nita Barrow, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra, Mr H. Ashmall, and Bishop K. Toth.

E. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, 13-15 January 1987, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

F. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented the agenda and timetable, which were adopted.

Before presenting the preliminary finance report Dr McCloud spoke personally. He referred to an execution sentence that would probably be carried out in Atlanta during the coming days, depending on the outcome of an appeal currently being studied. In connection with the encounter with the Black Churches, he wanted it known that the lyric "Lift up your voice and sing" that had been distributed was frequently sung in Black Church gatherings: it is a kind of national anthem for them. A gift of apples from Washington - a unique US product - would be shared with all participants. Dr McCloud then presented the General Secretary with the book, A day in the life of America.

The General Secretary expressed his thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee and staff for these gifts.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCES

Dr McCloud presented the preliminary report on Finances as follows:

> Members of the Executive Committee will remember that in Reykjavik the proposed budget for 1987 had been approved with a number of last minute restrictions to take into account the sudden drop of the US dollar and its adverse effect on anticipated Swiss franc income. For many sub-units a 95% level was placed on their expenditures. In January, the Central Committee endorsed these decisions.
>
> Since then, the dollar has continued to drop to a seemingly stabilized level of 1.50 Swiss francs to the dollar.
>
> At the time of this Executive Committee, it appears that in view of the actual closing balances available at the end of 1986 and of the actual levels of income and expenditures to-date, no supplementary restrictive measures need to be taken in spite of this further drop of the US currency. On the other hand, the 95% limit on spending cannot be waived.
>
> However, it should be noted that most sub-units will be drawing down on their fund balances to cover their expenses in 1987. The General Secretary has asked all Directors that every effort be made to reduce spending levels as much as possible in 1987, so as to have higher opening balances available at the beginning of 1988.
>
> During this meeting, the Executive Committee will be asked to approve the proposed 1988 budget. While the programme income anticipated in 1988 in original currencies will be almost 20% higher than in 1986, the continuing dollar erosion will make 1988 a difficult year for the Council.
>
> The Investment Advisory Group considers that, after possibly rallying slightly before the end of 1987 (if the present poor trade figures pick up), the US dollar will continue to decline to a level that some believe will be as low as 1.35 Swiss franc to a dollar. The IAG's advice is that opportunities be seized before the end of this year to sell dollars forward in order to protect a 1.50 Swiss franc budget rate for the dollar.

Under these conditions, the staff are proposing a 1988 budget that is lower than the 1987 approved budget. Members of the Executive Committee will therefore understand that 1988 should not see new additional activities developed and that extreme caution will need to be exercised in deciding appointments of staff or the holding of consultations that could, in fact, be delayed.

The Executive Committee will also be asked to consider a preliminary budget for the Seventh Assembly and the adoption or affirmation of several financial policies. It will receive a report on the consultation of the banks with which WCC has business relations regarding their involvement in Southern Africa following the adoption of additional criteria in January. Action will further be required as to the future of the temporary annexe built in 1980.

Such issues will be referred to the Finance Sub-Committee which will report later in this meeting. The Sub-Committee will also be receiving reports on Special Funding and on Alternate Contributions and will be reconsidering the present policies on the allocation of undesignated income.

In this 1987-1989 period what we are generally attempting to do is to gain time. We need to absorb the shock of the US dollar decline over a period long enough to see the original currency increase in giving of the member churches mentioned above compensate for the dollar drop. During this period, we must therefore restrain our expenses as much as possible. Because of the financial policies followed since the early 80s, especially with regard to the structure of our reserves and the use of our designated funds, I am confident that we will weather the storm, but all of us, Executive Committee members, members of Commissions and Working Groups, as well as staff, must be realistic in our assessment of our possibilities in this period.

Caution and realism are therefore the characteristics required in our present management of the Council, but also confidence that we can and will come out of this period without too much damage, provided we have exercised both that caution and that realism.

8. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by paying tribute to the following ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting of the Executive Committee: Dr Jean Kotto, President of the Evangelical Church in the Cameroon and one of the founders of CEVAA, and former member of Central Committee; Dr David du Plessis, a Pentecostal leader closely linked to the WCC since the early fifties and a speaker at the Vancouver Assembly; Bishop Zoltan Kaldy, a former member of Central Committee, President of the Lutheran World Federation; Pastor Jean-Marc Chappuis, Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Geneva, and member of the Communication Committee for many years; Prof. Hans-Heinrich Wolf, FRG, second director of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey.

The General Secretary drew attention to the list of sub-unit activities which had been circulated in advance, and said that questions would be welcome. He would not refer to these in his report but wanted to look back on the priorities and guidelines established by the Vancouver Assembly and face the questions that still confront us.

"The search for concrete steps towards the goal of visible unity must remain a priority in the years ahead. Growth towards unity in conciliar fellowship should be one of the purposes of all WCC programmes."

Dr Castro referred to signs of unity and cited among others the BEM process, to which 160 responses had now been received including that from the Roman Catholic Church; growth towards unity manifested also through solidarity in conflict situations; greater financial support given to the Council; involvement in diaconal service through an area-approach proposed by CICARWS in follow-up of the Larnaca Consultation in 1986, and approval of an ecumenical discipline of sharing expected from the forthcoming Consultation on Resource Sharing.

He referred to the different uses of the word "communion", which can refer to the reality of the communion already existing on the one hand, and on the other the confessional use of the word. He sensed a strengthening of confessional bodies and said that we need to be aware of the challenges presented by this new situation both to the WCC and to the ecumenical movement as a whole.

With regard to the guideline on ecumenical relationships, a variety of methodologies are employed. He referred to the various visits made by himself and staff to churches, many of which are in critical situations, as well as to visits of delegations from churches to the Ecumenical Centre. In particular, the team visit to China had led to a series of guidelines on relations with China. Although no specific programme of team visits was envisaged prior to the next Assembly, it was essential that this dimension of participation and fostering ecumenical relations with and among the member churches be intensified.

On the subject of creative theological work, mention was made of two processes of consultation with the churches currently taking place - "My neighbour's faith and mine" organised by the Dialogue sub-unit, and "Gospel and Culture" being coordinated by CWME. A study on religious liberty organised by CCIA has started, while Church and Society were involved in a search for a theology of nature which is awakening new interest in the teachings of the Fathers of the Church.

The debates on mission and unity and mission and dialogue were indications of the growing concern in the area of evangelism. An issue which needs attention is the tension between intentional, organized evangelism and evangelism as a Christian presence conceived as participation in the struggles for liberation, plus the potentialities of a sacramental understanding of the Church as a community that must call others into it for the task of assuming intercessory responsibility for the rest of humankind. The World Mission and Evangelism Conference in 1989 will be a central point in this search.

Another guideline from the Vancouver Assembly was the engagement of member churches in a conciliar process of mutual commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, which would be discussed in detail in the course of the meeting.

"The development of a community of healing and sharing within the WCC and the member churches where women, men, young people and children, able and disabled, clergy and laity, participate fully and minister to one another" should be considered together with the affirmation that the "concerns and perspectives of women should become integral to the work of all WCC units and sub-units". The General Secretary referred to events planned in the Youth sub-unit leading to a world youth event aiming at highlighting the contribution of youth to the total life of church and society. The women's sub-unit was working on plans for the Ecumenical Decade - the Churches in Solidarity with Women. The Christian Medical Commission had held its tenth and last regional consultation on health, healing and wholeness, and a final consultation would be held in 1989 to see how the findings of the CMC study could be transmitted to the churches for action and reflection.

"Urgent attention should be given to the methods and contents of ecumenical learning". Almost every aspect of the WCC's work is related to this - numerous workshops are taking place in different parts of the world; the work of Bossey; a special session of the Joint Working Group on ecumenical formation, as well as the Visser 't Hooft Endowment Fund which is a new service in this direction.

In discussion, Metropolitan Antonie asked the General Secretary to elaborate on his remarks about communion, and what he meant by the "existence of a communion not yet articulated". Dr Castro responded that he took for granted that there is a reality of "communion" in the life of the Council, that our work and worship together expresses our belonging to Christ. We recognize each other as Christians in the Church of Jesus Christ, yet we do not have the canonical freedom to express that through participation in the Lord's Table.

Bishop Hempel and Metropolitan Gregorios asked about the situation of the churches in China: whether there was any possibility that they might participate in the next WCC Assembly, and what action might be taken with regard to churches still on the member church list but which no longer exist. Dr Castro explained that a study of the membership situation was in process; a number of questions need to be answered in order to facilitate their participation in the Assembly.

Bishop Hempel raised the question of women bringing their impulses into all aspects of WCC work and felt this would be difficult to achieve. Dr Wilson asked that the Executive Committee set priorities with regard to the tasks of the Women's sub-unit: it should not be assumed that every action regarding women is referred to them. The Decade is for the churches to act on, not just for women. Dr Tolen referred to the difficulties encountered by the Youth sub-unit in previous plans for a world event and felt it was important that they work nationally and regionally before

proceeding on the world level. In response, Fr Huttunen said that indeed their first priority was national and regional strengthening of ecumenical youth movements, leading to reflection on a global level.

Dr McCloud referred to the Programme for People with Disabilities and asked that a report on the work so far be presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting in March 1988, and to Central Committee in August.

The General Secretary's report was received.

4. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS

Prof. Sabev presented a background paper on relations and collaboration between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church prepared on the basis of some letters from representatives of member churches and reactions to the Aide-Memoire of 1986 and with a view to a full discussion at the 1988 meeting of Central Committee. Although certain progress had been made in the period since Vancouver towards more openness and maturity in our relationships, there were still many obstacles in the way towards visible unity, not the least of which is the self-understanding of the WCC as a fellowship of churches as compared with the Roman Catholic self-understanding of a universal church with a centralized structure.

Prof. Sabev drew attention in particular to the RCC response to the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry convergence document (BEM). He spoke of the difficulties of collaboration in the field of social thought and action through the Consultative Group on Social Thought and Action (CGS). Although there had been a substantive agreement on the biblical foundation for the rejection of any discrimination or oppressive system based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, the two partners had not succeeded in making a common witness on the issue of racism and apartheid. The CGS at its meeting in June 1987 had decided to begin joint consideration of religious liberty. With regard to the invitation to the RCC to be co-inviter of the Convocation on JPIC, a response from the Vatican was still awaited. It was however clear that the SPCU and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace are keen to work with the WCC on the JPIC programme and to offer a common witness on this vital theme.

Ms Skuse as a member of the Joint Working Group (JWG) expressed appreciation but asked for greater clarity and specification in such a paper. With regard to the role of the JWG she felt that it had become somehow marginalised and its role should be redefined perhaps in the Sixth Report of the JWG that would have to be prepared for presentation to the Seventh Assembly. The document underlined the fact that the JWG has a heavy agenda, very modest resources and not sufficient time for follow-up. She herself was the only member of the Executive Committee on the JWG and felt that attention should be given to the appointment of other Executive Committee or Central Committee members to the JWG. She also raised the question of the appointment of a staff person for RCC relations and giving more prominence to WCC/RCC collaboration.

Ms Skuse voiced the opinion that further attention should be given to the priorities we feel are important in discussions with the RCC, and that occasions such as the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Ecumenical Centre in 1984 should not be forgotten but statements made on such occasions might be highlighted to keep both sides accountable to what has been said.

Archbishop Kirill stressed that for him the most important thing in the history of WCC relationships with the RCC is their participation in the JPIC Convocation, and our first priority should be to enable such a platform for common participation. However, there were many questions also for the Orthodox concerning the ecclesiological status of the Convocation. By helping our Roman Catholic friends to solve this problem we would at the same time help our Orthodox brothers and sisters to acquire a clearer idea about the ecclesiological significance of the covenant as well as of the JPIC Convocation.

Metropolitan Gregorios did not share this anxiety as he felt the Orthodox would not commit themselves to a particular assessment of the ecclesiological significance of the JPIC Convocation - they would only begin to assess this after the event. He was however concerned that any statement on justice and peace that had the consensus not only of our member churches but also of the RCC would thus be weakened and carry little weight.

Metropolitan Gregorios felt that we were now facing two major difficulties: 1) fundamental theological disagreements about what the Church is, what the unity of the Church is and how that unity is manifested, and 2) a fundamental cleavage in the political economic approach of the two bodies. The future role of the JWG and the nature of WCC/RCC relationships would depend on two factors: how sincerely we want RCC participation in the ecumenical movement in which we are involved, and the RCC's assessment of the significance of the WCC.

Several members referred to the importance of the existing reality of local ecumenism and the fact of strong collaboration between the RCC and local churches especially where it is in the context of survival of people. People in such difficult situations do not ask questions about official negotiations. Dr Nababan pointed out however that in his region there was a good deal of proselytising of members of Protestant churches.

With reference to the Toronto Statement mentioned in the document, Mr Voksoe stressed the importance of formulating a text in the language of the 80s that clearly states the self-understanding of the WCC. He felt this should be the major task facing us as we approach the Canberra Assembly.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Nababan reported on behalf of the Programme Sub-committee, which had made the following recommendations:

1. The Committee received the staff paper with appreciation and recommended:

   a) that a revised version be prepared for the Executive Committee meeting in March 1988, and after discussion/ approval be sent to WCC member churches and Central Committee members;

   b) that the paper bring a profile of achievements and indicate ecclesiological, theological and ethical problems encountered in WCC/RCC relations;

   c) that divergence of understanding of ecumenism and ways towards unity (including issues of proselytism and uniatism) be reviewed, and obstacles for collaboration at various levels be reassessed;

   d) that the evaluation take into consideration also the ecumenical commitment of WCC member churches to their own fellowship in the World Council;

   e) that problems and difficulties of a structural nature be dealt with and concrete proposals be made for the improvement of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and the Consultative Group on Social Thought and Action (CGS) as instruments for cooperation; and

   f) that further efforts be made to base the evaluation in the staff paper on experiences of churches and ecumenical bodies which are in collaboration and dialogue with Roman Catholic partners.

2. In view of these major tasks and the need to have a sustained effort to better understand, monitor and promote WCC-RCC relationships, the Committee recommended that additional financial resources be provided for the JWG, and that the issue of staffing be considered again.

3. The Committee expressed gratitude for the official response of the Roman Catholic Church to BEM, for its positive attitude regarding "the importance of the multilateral ecumenical engagement" and renewed commitment to the process of serving unity in joint efforts with other churches and ecclesial communities.

4. Taking into consideration the interrelationships of the different aspects of ecumenism and the urgent need for common witness, as expressed in joint studies and particularly in the statement made in 1984 at the Ecumenical Centre (Geneva) by the WCC General Secretary and Cardinal Willebrands, the Committee hopes that real progress will be made in common endeavours for JPIC and in other important areas of social thought and action.

Ms Abayasekera felt strongly that making WCC more ecumenical should not be done at the cost of helping people to survive. At local level there is strong collaboration between the RCC and

local churches because it is in the context of survival - race, class, sex; that kind of association can be jeopardised if at hierarchical level it is not shared. The kind of unity being built at local level should not be affected.

The Executive Committee agreed to receive the paper and asked for a revised text at its March meeting.

5. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

Dr Avery Post, moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee (APC), present as a Consultant, addressed the Executive Committee. He was quickened by the challenge of his appointment as APC moderator and assured members of his commitment to the WCC and to helping everyone to experience an outstanding and productive Assembly. The APC's first meeting would be in December 1987 at which the main task would be to prepare a first draft recommendation on the theme which would be reported to the Executive Committee in March, leading to a decision by Central Committee in August 1988. Dr Post expressed his belief in the Assembly as a means of witnessing to the world-wide community, as an opportunity for public communication, and as a setting for bold imaginative leadership in obedience to the God of Jesus Christ.

The Moderator thanked Dr Post and assured him of the prayers and support of the Executive Committee.

A. Theme: Revd W. Ariarajah introduced a staff paper, prepared for discussion in both the Executive Committee and the APC. The paper sought to suggest how a theme centred on the Holy Spirit, as had been proposed and supported by Central Committee in January, could be developed. Comments from the Executive Committee would be shared with the APC which had not yet met. No action was needed from the Executive Committee at this time.

Dr McCloud and Dr Tolen questioned whether the Central Committee in January had so clearly supported the proposal for a theme centred on the Holy Spirit and whether this discussion precluded consideration of other themes. Ms Skuse recalled that in her task of coordinating comments from Unit Committees in January 1987, the three prominent aspects were a theme on the Spirit, an emphasis on creation, and an emphasis on hope. She raised another aspect of the whole quest for identity as people which we need to face up to - a question wider than Gospel and culture.

Metropolitan Gregorios emphasised that any theme on the Spirit must have a more creation-oriented understanding of the Spirit in order to avoid being too pietistic, since theology has confined the Spirit to the Church. Culture is larger than identity within a culture and the key question for most people in today's world is how do we relate the Spirit to culture? Dr Wilson felt that there was a danger of a spirit-centred theme becoming inverted and thus having no relevance for those outside the Church; the phrasing of the theme was therefore critical.

Mr Vcksoe emphasised that a theme must be clearly understood by all, not just by those in the Church, and that it must be a phrase which can be translated into different languages and cultural understandings. Archbishop Athanasios felt strongly the need to re-discover the work of the Holy Spirit in our faith, because in these days many people feel Christianity is becoming too secular and too political and thus deteriorating in its essence. Dr Bührig asked that a theme on the Spirit be pursued because it is a dimension that others outside the Church are also seeking.

Archbishop Kirill observed that the theme for him was secondary as the Assembly will unfold according to its own pattern. He affirmed that it should be very broad and not in any sense define the direction the Assembly might take. Spirituality is a subject which appears frequently in the media also as a secular concept and is therefore of particular relevance.

At a later session, Dr Tolen reported that the Programme Sub-committee recommended that the comments by members of the Executive Committee be referred to the APC for careful consideration. This was agreed.

B. Allocation of seats

Revd W. Perkins introduced a paper setting forth proposals for guidelines for the allocation of seats at the Assembly. The guidelines were based on the importance of balanced participation, more careful use of the category of 15%, and the need for a formula which would ensure adequate representation of the non-autonomous Orthodox churches (diaspora) and other churches with similar membership in several countries. The guidelines would be shared with member churches asking for their comments before being brought back to the Executive Committee in March, together with specific criteria for the composition of delegations and proposed allocations to the churches.

At a later session, Dr Talbot presented the report of the Nominations Sub-committee recommending that the proposed guidelines be approved and circulated to the churches.

In response to a proposal from the officers of the Sub-unit on Education, it was agreed that the General Secretary request the churches to consider including disabled persons in their delegations.

Dr McCloud urged that the proposed percentage figures (25% Orthodox, 40% women and 15% youth) required a real commitment by all the churches to appoint balanced delegations. It should not be expected that only a few churches provide the balances. Metropolitan Antonie said there was more understanding among the Orthodox regarding the need for balanced representation and they would do their best to meet the requested criteria. The letter to member churches should state the proposals very clearly, and be explicit regarding the necessity to include members of the diaspora in their delegations.

On this basis the proposals for the allocation of seats were accepted (see Appendix V).

C. Preparations

Revd W. Perkins introduced a paper describing the various aspects of Assembly preparations and proposing how the responsibilities for these tasks could be shared. It was proposed that the Executive Committee endorse this statement as a basis for the work of the Assembly Planning Committee at its first meeting in December 1987. The document was passed to the Programme Sub-committee for study and recommendation.

At a later session, Dr Nababan presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee and the following recommendations which were accepted by the Executive Committee:

- The Sub-committee endorses the document setting out the responsibilities of the Central Committee, the Executive Committee, the Assembly Planning Committee and the Assembly Worship Committee together with the revised schedule of preparations (Appendix VI).

- It further urges that the Officers give attention to the need for adequate and early preparation for the appointment of the Assembly Worship Committee.

- The Committee noted that no extensive plan of team visits to churches similar to that which took place before Vancouver is planned.

With regard to the last point, Dr Wilson said that the Canadian churches would wish to invite a team to visit them.

6. VITAL AND COHERENT THEOLOGY

The General Secretary introduced a background paper following up the earlier discussion based on Prof. Miguez-Bonino's paper on the subject (see Minutes of the Executive Committee, Reykjavik, September 1986, pp 11-12). In November 1986, Metropolitan Paulos Gregorios had spent some time with staff; he had given a series of Bible Studies during the Week of Meetings and began an exciting discussion on hermeneutics. Towards the end of 1987 Dr M.M. Thomas would help carry the process further, while it was hoped that a woman theologian would come at a later stage. The General Secretary enumerated specific areas demanding special attention and where work was in progress:

1) the creation of a common memory: the first two volumes of the History of the Ecumenical Movement, and the Memoirs of Dr Visser 't Hooft were being reprinted, while work had begun on the production of the Ecumenical Dictionary.

2) The debates continue between the undergirding theologies of the different programmes of the Council: CWME and Faith and Order are working on the relation between mission and unity;

CWME and Dialogue will celebrate together the 50th anniversary of the Tambaram conference with a workshop on the ongoing debate between dialogue and mission; while Gospel and culture has set going a process to provide help for the self-analysis of the churches in their respective situations.

3) The need for a trinitarian theological framework for the WCC could be related to discussion on the Assembly theme.

4) Different ecclesiologies undergird the various programmes of the WCC; serious work needs to be done on how these might be related.

5) Dogmatic-ethics: work is in process on an analysis of the ethical statements of the WCC, especially of Church and Society. The JPIC process is the logical locus for this debate where the relation between ethical pronouncements and dogmatic convictions should be fully explored.

6) The authority of the Bible: Dr Hans-Ruedi Weber had prepared a paper drawing attention to a number of reports and studies undertaken in the past and which could be of considerable assistance in further work on the subject. The authority of the Bible was perceived differently both among WCC member churches and among staff; and even within sub-units there was divergence between the stated theory of hermeneutics and the actual praxis of using the Bible. A small inter-unit consultation could examine the present stance of the WCC with regard to the authority and interpretation of the Bible.

7) The aim of the process would be to produce some overall framework for ecumenical theologies, or a frame of reference for theologies to be recognised as ecumenical; all sub-units should continue to provide a theological rationale for programmatic work, and theological presuppositions should be articulated more clearly.

The General Secretary proposed that a theologian might be invited to the Hanover Central Committee meeting to lead discussion on "requirements for ecumenical theologies" incorporating reference to the WCC Basis as well as to the theological ethical consensus developed over the past 40 years.

Discussion had taken place in the Programme Sub-committee and the following recommendations were proposed and adopted as follows:

The Executive Committee

1. receives with gratitude the progress report introduced by the General Secretary;

2. requests that the list of documents representative of the theological presuppositons of the different sub-units be shared with the members of the Executive Committee;

3. requests the General Secretary to prepare a list of emerging theological issues since Vancouver and share it with the Executive Committee;

4. asks the Officers to consider the possibility that either the Moderator or the General Secretary in their reports to the Central Committee in Hanover concentrate on or refer to the search for a theological frame of reference for an ecumenical theology.

7. JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Dr Niles introduced documents reporting on developments since the meeting of Central Committee in January. He spoke of the many local, national and regional initiatives being taken on the JPIC issue demonstrating a great variety of points of view and actions planned.

Dr Love referred to the discussion that had taken place in the meeting of the Unit II Executive Group the previous week and the concern expressed that, in the recommendations for future action, there had been no mention of people's movements and action groups whose vital interaction was essential to such a process as JPIC. There was a strong feeling that leaving out representation of these groups was too high a cost to pay for cooperation in other directions. The whole JPIC process was too important to be seen merely as an academic study process; it must be more vibrant and involve those who are struggling for survival.

The General Secretary spoke of the special situation created by the fact that Central Committee had agreed to offer the Roman Catholic Church an opportunity to be co-inviter of the JPIC Convocation. Since the final response was still awaited and with negotiations still in progress, it was impossible to make decisions at this time about the process. Once the response had been received then the Executive Committee would be involved in the follow up. A further study of the situation would take place at the next Executive Committee meeting in March 1988.

At a later session, Dr Nababan presented the recommendations of the Programme Sub-Committee. After a full discussion the Committee accepted the following recommendations:

The Committee welcomes the answer from the Roman Catholic Church sent in a telex dated 9 September 1987 to the General Secretary:

> "Due to circumstances of the holiday season we have not yet received our final response on JPIC, but we are ready to participate in the JPIC process while still studying the nature and mode of the final JPIC convocation stop Cordial best wishes,
>
> John Cardinal Willebrands,
> President, Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity"

While welcoming the readiness to participate in the JPIC process, the Committee hopes that the Roman Catholic Church will accept the invitation of the Central Committee of the WCC to be a co-inviter with the WCC for the World Convocation on JPIC now scheduled for 1990.

The Committee discussed proposals with regard to the JPIC World Convocation and noted that in the selection of persons for the proposed ad hoc body and/or theological commission, persons representing the viewpoints of people's movements and action groups be included.

The Executive Committee further accepted the following recommendations:

1. that the WCC Officers and staff be requested, in consultation with the member churches, Christian World Communions, regional ecumenical organisations and interested churches not members of the WCC, to draw up a list of persons to serve on the ad hoc body for consideration by the Executive Committee in March 1988 in the light of the final response of the Roman Catholic Church;

2. that at least the following two possible scenarios be envisaged for the next World Convocation, a decision to be made in March 1988 at the next meeting of the Executive Committee:

   a) that the World Convocation be made up of representatives from the churches, partipating organizations and other advisors, with a total of around 500 persons; that it be held before the 1990 meeting of the Central Committee;

   or:

   b) that the World Convocation have the character of a theological working meeting to finalize a theological document on JPIC for the WCC Assembly in Canberra, and other church bodies, to identify the major critical issues in the three areas and to suggest appropriate steps to be taken by the churches; that this meeting be for not more than 150 persons, and that it be held not later than July 1990.

   The enlarged Unit II Executive Group and the Executive Committee registered a preference for option (a) and requested the staff to provide more information on the constitution and task of the World Convocation for the next Executive Committee meeting.

3. that, if the ad hoc body to plan and call the JPIC World Convocation is constituted, the terms of reference and function of the JPIC Advisory Group be reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

8. PROGRAMME TO COMBAT RACISM: LUSAKA MEETING

Mr Mutambirwa introduced a report on the Lusaka meeting which had made a big impact leading to positive action in many areas. He drew attention to the recommendations for WCC action and the request that a mechanism be set up to monitor what the churches are doing to implement the Harare statement.

Archbishop Makhulu expressed concern about the level of representation at such meetings. He felt that new thinking was needed regarding the way in which PCR functions: new questions must be raised in view of the fact that the world has changed since the Special Fund was established. Lusaka highlighted for him the diversity of those who stand opposed to the South African regime and this needed to be borne in mind when action was taken.

Metropolitan Gregorios referred to the strategy which prevents the media from learning about what is happening to detained children; they are only able to convey news which gives a positive aspect to the situation in South Africa.

Dr Love spoke about the new challenges facing PCR and agreed that it was necessary to give attention to the variety of organisations expressing themselves in many different ways. She affirmed that the sub-unit was operating under the handicap of being understaffed.

At a later session Dr Tolen introduced the recommendations proposed by the Programme sub-committee. These were accepted as follows:

In light of the Lusaka Report and Statement, the following actions are recommended by the Executive Committee:

1. That a delegation or delegations of Eminent Church Persons be sent to involved nations, as proposed by the Lusaka meeting, to explain WCC policies and actions related to Southern Africa; to urge implementation of the appropriate UN resolutions, sanctions against South Africa and other actions which would contribute to bringing an end to the pain and suffering of the South African and Namibian people, taking into account the recommendations from Lusaka; and that the WCC Officers be authorized to select the delegation and to decide the terms of reference for it. A good deal of preparation is necessary. Members of the proposed delegation should be notified well in advance. An Orthodox church leader from either Egypt or Ethiopia should be included.

2. That 4 May 1988, the tenth anniversary of the Kassinga Massacre, be observed as a World Day of Prayer for a free Namibia. Background information and prayer materials should be sent early to the churches so that they can adequately prepare their congregations for the day of prayer.

3. That the General Secretary be urged to study with PCR other steps that need to be taken in the light of the Lusaka recommendations. The Lusaka meeting suggested that a monitoring group be set up to check what the churches were doing to implement the 1985 Harare Declaration. PCR should

carry out this monitoring process through the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

Dr McCloud asked that the term "involved nations" (paragraph 1 above) should be clarified before action was taken to implement this proposal.

9. EVANGELISM

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) had sponsored an Evangelism Consultation in Stuttgart, FRG, in March 1987, which included a substantial number of "evangelicals" among the participants. Several recommendations had come out of the consultation, and Dr Stockwell presented a proposal calling for the official creation of a committee of which half the membership would be appointed by the WCC and half by the World Evangelical Fellowship and the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. Such a committee would study models of evangelism on which all could agree. He felt this would be a positive response to the Open Letter from Evangelicals written at the Vancouver Assembly.

The proposal was welcomed by most members, though Dr McCloud expressed hesitation. Dr Stockwell said that although CWME would be the link with these bodies, it was felt that the Committee should be appointed in the name of the WCC as a whole. The proposal was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Nababan presented the recommendation of the Sub-committee:

The Committee recommends that the Executive Committee welcome warmly the proposal that CWME, the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE) and the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) name a joint committee to select, publish and disseminate concrete models for evangelism endorsed by the full Committee. The Committee expresses the hope that the LCWE and the WEF will likewise welcome the proposal and requests the General Secretary to discuss further implementation of the recommendations with CWME.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

10. ECUMENICAL DECADE: THE CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

A background paper prepared by the Women's sub-unit had been shared with the Executive Committee. A number of meetings and discussions had taken place since January when the Central Committee decided to initiate the Decade. Various theological reflections were emerging, emphasizing the theology of creation, the perspective of liberation and empowerment by the Spirit.

Two emerging areas of concern for many women in the churches are the role of Mary in God's salvation and liberation of the world, and the sharing and reflection among women of living faiths.

These perspectives indicate the breadth of theological work and biblical traditions that can motivate the churches during this period of special commitment to be in solidarity with women.

The Sub-Unit on Women sees its most important role as that of an enabler, facilitating participation in the Decade by churches, persons and groups in their own particular contexts. It is through the involvement of women and men in local churches and collaboration with justice movements and ecumenical organizations that concrete actions in solidarity with women can be taken and the community of women and men nurtured.

A number of programme plans were indicated, including production of resource kits, flyers, news sheet, calendar, as well as the holding of special meetings (a Decade monitoring group and a mid-Decade conference in 1993) and collaboration with other WCC sub-units.

At a later session, the Programme Sub-Committee recommended that the paper be received and that approval be given to the general directions indicated in the programme plans. Further details on specific programme and budget needs should be brought to the Executive Committee in March 1988.

This was agreed.

11. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy introduced the discussion on public issues and referred to five situations where recent developments were of particular importance:

A. Central America

The adoption of a peace plan by five countries in the region gives grounds for hopes for peace in this area. The ecumenical community has long been involved in the struggle for justice, peace and human rights and needs our continued support and that of churches around the world. The situations in the five countries are not similar and the Agreement faces many difficulties but it can be seen as a beginning. Dr Love and Mr Piske were asked to prepare a draft statement.

At a later session Mr Piske presented the proposed statement which was adopted as follows:

> The Peace Accord signed by the Presidents of five Central American states (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) in Guatemala on 7 August, 1987, is of historic significance.
>
> Considering the developments in the region in the last decade, including external intervention and the intensity of conflict in the different countries, the plan in itself is a remarkable achievement. Underlying the plan is a genuine desire for the region to chart out its own policies and the belief that peace and development are inseparable. The plan is an affirmation of the concept of regional political pluralism, the principle of non-intervention and the sovereign right of each nation to determine its own destiny. It is a recognition that the

only viable solution to Central America's problems is based on political negotiations to end the military conflict and to deal with the socio-economic issues at the root of the crisis.

The ecumenical community during the last several years has supported the people of Central America in their struggles for justice and peace and has closely worked with the churches in the region in their pastoral ministry during a critical period. The Peace Accord deserves support from the international community.

The Executive Committee of the WCC, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, from 21-25 September 1987 welcomes the Peace Accord signed by five Central American states on 7 August 1987 as providing a significant opportunity for the resolution of conflicts in the region and for the rebuilding of the societies based on justice and human dignity, expresses appreciation for the steps already taken by the governments of the region for the implementation of the Accord, and encourages them in their efforts for national reconciliation.

The Executive Committee
upholds the churches in Central America in its prayers assuring them of its support in their pastoral role in the process towards reconciliation with justice and in their continuing ministry to the oppressed and marginalised,

reaffirms its support for the US churches in their opposition to continued US intervention in Central America and in their efforts for change of US government policies towards cooperation and support for peace in the region,

urges the world-wide ecumenical family to extend increased support to churches and communities of Central America, in their efforts for the implementation of the Peace Accord, in opposing intervention and aggression, in their ministry to the refugees and displaced persons and in the reconstruction of their societies.

B. Sri Lanka

Mr Koshy introduced a note on the current situation following the major breakthrough achieved with the Agreement between the governments of India and Sri Lanka. It includes a proposal for an autonomous region and concedes the multi-ethnic character of the country, though the Agreement is not acceptable by all sides. The situation continues to be sensitive and demands pastoral support as well as the material support of the ecumenical community. Ms Abayasekera stressed that the number of refugees and the whole question of reconciliation was urgent and the church there needs our prayers and support. Ms Abayasekera and Ms Skuse were asked to prepare a draft statement.

At a later session, Ms Abayasekera presented the proposed statement which was adopted as follows:

1. The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 29 July 1987 has given a fresh opportunity to resolve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Patient and persistent efforts by all directly concerned and support by the international community are required for utilizing this opportunity for national reconciliation with justice.

2. The Agreement, which acknowledges that Sri Lanka is a "multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society" recognizes "that the Northern and the Eastern provinces have been areas of historical habitation of Sri Lankan Tamil-speaking people" The government has conceded one of the main demands of the Tamil-speaking people, viz. regional autonomy by the formation of the Northern and Eastern provinces as one administrative unit. The Agreement has already led to the cessation of hostilities between the army and Tamil movements.

3. The major tasks now facing the people in the North and East are the return and rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons and the rebuilding and reconstruction of the areas considerably destroyed during the past few years. Several problems remain: the opposition to the Agreement from sections of the Sinhala people; the inter-movement rivalry in the North and the East which has led to loss of lives; the lack of consensus among political movements in the North and East regarding interim administration and political future.

4. The Executive Committee of the WCC, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, from 21-25 September 1987 welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to resolve the ethnic conflict and the cessation of hostilities: expresses the hope that provisions, including general amnesty to political prisoners, ending of the state of emergency and the restoration of human rights will be fully implemented.

5. The Executive Committee
assures the churches in Sri Lanka of continued prayers for them and all the people of Sri Lanka;
supports them in their efforts to enable the return and rehabilitation of the refugees and the displaced, and in reconstruction, in their task of national reconciliation and efforts for the realization of social and economic justice for all people in Sri Lanka.

6. The Executive Committee
appeals to all member churches to support in all possible ways rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation, and requests them to support generously the WCC/CICARWS appeal for emergency help to Sri Lanka, and continue to uphold the churches in Sri Lanka in their intercessions.

C. Korea

Mr Koshy said that the witness of the churches in Korea, especially during the last 12 years, had been extremely significant, for they have expressed their witness through new models of engagement in the life of society. Korea continues to be in the news due to labour disputes and frequent arrests, and the church has a continuing ministry for the detainees and their families. Metropolitan Gregorios and Dr Wilson were asked to draft a message of encouragement to be sent to the churches who have always been aware and appreciative of the support of the ecumenical community.

At a later session Metropolitan Gregorios presented the proposed message which was adopted as follows:

A MESSAGE TO THE MEMBER CHURCHES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, sends you warm and cordial greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who has called us into fellowship with Him.

2. We join you in expressing joy at the new developments in your country which allow processes enabling democratic transformation. While recognizing that problems remain and many obstacles have to be surmounted, we hope that the processes now set in motion will lead towards the realization of the aspirations of the people.

3. We recognize the significant role played by the churches in the struggle of the people. We clearly see signs of the work of God who struggles with the people and leads them to new frontiers. Your witness in the society and nation, especially in the last decade in response to the demands of the Gospel has been an inspiration and example to churches around the world. You have created new models for engagement on the side of the poor and the oppressed. Your theological reflections in the context of the struggle of the "minjung" (common people) have been enriching.

4. The Executive Committee recalls this time the many who have suffered for the cause of human dignity and social justice: those who died, those imprisoned, and those tortured and their dear ones who agonized with them. We are confident that their sacrifices will not be in vain and that their bearing the cross will continue to inspire many. We also recall the courageous pastoral ministry you have been carrying out to the victims of injustice. We especially commend the intercessory support you have always given to the families of the detainees. You have suffered and shared the suffering of many.

> "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair: persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor. 4:8-11)

5. As you participate in the processes towards democratic transformation, we are aware of several specific concerns you have:

   - your demand for the release of all political prisoners;

   - your appeal that the demands of the Korean workers be met justly without delay. (In this connection we know that you have always held labour issues to be one of the primary mission tasks.);

   - your demand that freedom of expression and the press be granted as a fundamental prerequisite for free elections;

   - your demand that the Korean military forces stay out of the political arena, especially during the period of transition to democracy.

   We assure you of our support to the demands and hope that the international community will be sensitive to the will of the Korean people to ensure a smooth transition to democracy, self-determination and demilitarization. We also wish to express our desire that the movement for the reunification of Korea should make progress on a just and equitable basis.

6. The Executive Committee is aware of many problems you still face. We are concerned about the attempts on the part of the government to discredit and suppress leaders of people's movements and know that among those victimized are several church workers.

   We assure you of our solidarity with you in your struggle and of our intercessions for you as you continue your ministry in this crucial period of transition and as you respond to the new challenges that emerge.

D. Agreement in principle between the USA and USSR

Mr Koshy referred to the agreement in principle on the elimination of intermediate nuclear forces recently announced between the USA and the USSR. Although this kind of weapon totals less than 5% of the nuclear arsenal it was a first step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and was therefore of significance. It was proposed that a brief resolution be drafted: Archbishop Kirill and Dr McCloud were asked to do this.

At a later session Dr McCloud presented a draft statement which was adopted as follows:

The Executive Committee of the WCC, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, from 21-25 September 1987, warmly welcomes the agreement in principle between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of medium and short-

range nuclear missiles of the two nations, announced on 18 September in Washington. This step, which envisages the complete elimination of one category of nuclear weapons, is of considerable significance.

The WCC and many of its member churches have for several years appealed to the nuclear weapon-states to take specific actions for nuclear disarmament. The Executive Committee hopes that further steps will be taken to stop and reverse the nuclear arms race.

The Executive Committee urges member churches to pray that this agreement in principle will be the beginning of new opportunities for disarmament and peace.

E. Conference on the relation between Disarmament and Development

Metropolitan Gregorios, who had led the CCIA/CCPD delegation to this conference, reported on the significance of the meeting. Although disarmament, development and common security are three distinct processes, they are all related, and the idea of non-military threats to security has now been accepted in United Nations terminology. Although the US had not been present, the conference had been widely representative and had reached consensus. Metropolitan Gregorios urged that CCPD and CCIA develop plans to follow up and watch the developments in the General Assembly and the Special Session on Disarmament and find ways to share these ideas with the churches. It was pointed out that this issue is of significance to the discussions on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

12. CHINA

A background paper on guidelines for relationships with China developed since the General Secretary's visit in March 1987 was discussed by the Programme Sub-Committee. Dr Nababan presented the Committee's recommendation which was agreed as follows:

The Executive Committee

1) expresses appreciation for the initiatives taken by the General Secretary with regard to relations with China;

2) endorses the guidelines as follows:

a. All WCC actions in relation to China should express recognition of the China Christian Council (CCC) and the Three-Self Movement as the organized expressions of the (Protestant) church in China and should support the unity that they express and seek.

b. The Amity Foundation, in which Christians and other citizens are working together in social and development projects, is the primary partner at the moment for resource sharing with China. The WCC will consult the CCC if other partners are proposed.

c. WCC actions in relation to China should be either
1) responses to invitations received from China through the CCC or with the knowledge of the CCC; or
2) WCC initiatives which have been approved by the CCC.

All staff visits should be coordinated by the Asia task force and approved by the General Secretary.

d. There should be an agreed policy for listing by countries applicable to all WCC lists and publications and to participation of Chinese representatives at WCC meetings so as to reflect political realities with regard to China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

e. Information on WCC programmes and events will be sent only to the CCC and/or the Three-Self Movement. Since only a few invitations to meetings can be accepted, all invitations where Chinese participation is deemed highly desirable will be discussed with the Asia Task Force and sent only after approval by the General Secretary.

3) requests the General Secretary to share the guidelines with the churches and councils for information. The report of his visit to China might also be shared.

13. ANNIVERSARIES OF 1987

Revd W. Perkins had prepared a background paper which was shared with the Programme Sub-committee. Dr Nababan presented the Sub-committee's recommended statement which was adopted by the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee recommends that the following statement and background document be widely distributed for publication in church papers and journals:

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 21-25 September 1987, wishes to recall with gratitude three decisive events in the history of the ecumenical movement: the fiftieth anniversaries of the Oxford Conference on Church, Community and State and the Edinburgh Conference on Faith and Order, both held in 1937, and the fortieth anniversary of the Oslo World Conference of Christian Youth held in 1947.

It was at the two conferences in 1937 that the Life and Work and the Faith and Order movements agreed to join forces to create the WCC. The Oslo Conference, the first large ecumenical gathering to be held after World War II, witnessed to the fact that the ecumenical movement had been strengthened by the war-time experiences and prepared the way for the First Assembly of the WCC in 1948.

Among the participants in all three conferences were men and women who were to guide the ecumenical movement for years to come. We continue to be grateful for their work and witness.

It was noted that Mr Voksoe was present at the Oslo meeting in 1947.

14. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

In a closed session, Mr Mutambirwa presented the list of allocations for 1987 proposed by the PCR Commission. He indicated two changes made by the recent PCR Officers' meeting though this had not altered the total. Fifty-six applications had been accepted and it was proposed to distribute $546,000, of which $434,000 was to liberation movements and groups of the racially oppressed and $112,000 to support groups (compared with a total of $400,000 in 1986).

Archbishop Makhulu repeated his earlier remark that the WCC was showing ideological preferences in its choice of groups to whom it would give support, while need should be the basis on which grants are made. Divisions ~~between~~ within South Africa and Namibia lead to more strife and these exist because some are better supported than others.

Mr Piske asked for additional information about the bodies named to receive grants in Brazil. He knew nothing about two of the groups and felt he should be well informed before being faced with press reports. At a later session Mutambirwa said it had not been possible to clarify the situation sufficiently, and it was agreed to postpone action on these grants until Mr Piske had returned to Brazil and checked the situation. He would then inform the PCR office whether these groups were acceptable to the churches locally.

The Executive Committee agreed to approve grants totalling US$ 546,000 (Appendix III), pending consultation regarding the two grants to Brazil and one other in Latin America that was still being checked. It was also agreed that there should be an embargo on the public announcement of the grants until 30 October so that information might be received by the member churches prior to such an announcement.

15. CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1988

A draft programme was considered by the Programme Sub-committee. Dr Tolen presented the report.

Dr Wilson urged that more attention be given to worship, as she feared that the impact of the Vancouver worship experience was being lost. She asked that the practice of using inclusive language should be adhered to and that this be communicated to those looking after worship plans locally. With reference to discussion of the General Secretary's report, which was expected to make reference to a number of different programme activities,

discussion should not be limited to one session but could have relevance for debates on varying subjects at different times.

With several amendments, the recommendations were accepted as follows:

The Committee reviewed the staff paper and the provisional programme for the Central Committee 1988 in Hanover and makes the following comments and recommendations in order that a revised programme be presented to the Executive Committee in March.

1. Worship: The worship life of Central Committee is vital for its life as a community. Therefore due consideration should be given to the possibility of beginning with worship daily instead of having worship time before lunch. It was further noted that evening worship is being planned by local churches in Hanover for Central Committee participants.

2. Bible study and small groups: It was proposed that there be a theme for the Bible study presentations throughout the Central Committee which would be followed by small group discussions. The theme may be related to both the daily worship and the topics of the morning deliberative plenary sessions. The distribution of participants into groups should provide for fully mixed groups (with interpretation) to avoid having the same membership of language groups in successive meetings.

3. Plenary deliberative sessions: The Committee took note that it is planned that these sessions allow half the time for presentation and half the time for discussion. These sessions will provide basic background for the discussions in the unit committees which will then make recommendations to Central Committee for decision and action on these matters.

4. Reports of the General Secretary and the Moderator: It is understood that the General Secretary's report will be the keynote address on the first morning and that there will be time for some discussion in that session. Further discussion of the General Secretary's report can take place in the five deliberative sessions on the topics of those sessions. The Moderator's Report, which is the report of the Executive Committee and the programme activities of the WCC since the last Central Committee meeting, is seen as an introduction to the reports of the unit committees and will be discussed in these meetings.

5. Amsterdam anniversary: Celebration of the Amsterdam anniversary should not just be reminiscences of the past but include a critical appraisal which is instructive for today and the future.

6. Adviser on rules of debate and procedures: The role and function and responsibilities of the adviser should be clearly defined, taking into consideration all the suggestions and comments made by the Committee and reported to the Executive Committee in March.

7. Recommendations to the Planning Committee in Hanover: The proposed visit to Bergen-Belsen was strongly endorsed, and it was suggested that it be the only scheduled activity for Wednesday afternoon. It was also proposed that such a visit should focus not only on the past, but also on the present and the future. The Committee asks the local planning committee to give careful consideration to these suggestions.

16. STAFFING MATTERS

Dr Talbot presented the report of the Staffing Sub-committee, and the Executive Committee agreed to the following new staff appointments:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Office of the General Secretary

1. that the Rev. William Perkins (USA, The Episcopal Church [Anglican]), at present Assistant to the General Secretary, be transferred to the position of Executive Secretary for Assembly Administration, from 1 February 1988;

2. that Ms Jean Stromberg (USA, Baptist), at present Secretary for Publications, Unit I/CWME, be transferred to the position of Assistant to the General Secretary from 1 February 1988;

Department of Communication

3. that Ms Eeva Kemppi (Finland, Evangelical Lutheran Church) be appointed as Senior Press Officer for four years from an agreed date;

UNIT II

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

4. that Ms Victoria Berry (Canada, United Church of Canada), be appointed as Executive Secretary for four years from an agreed date;

5. that Rev. Clement Janda (Sudan, Episcopal Church of Sudan) be appointed as Executive Secretary for four years from an agreed date;

UNIT III

Office of Education

6. that Rev. Gerard Fanchette (Mauritius, Roman Catholic Church) be appointed as Secretary for Adult Basic Education for four years from an agreed date;

Programme on Theological Education

7. that Rev. Ofelia Ortega (Cuba, Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba), at present Lecturer, Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, be transferred to the position of Associate Director from an agreed date;

Youth Department

8. that Ms Seong Foon Chan (Malaysia, Methodist Church in Malaysia) be appointed as Associate Director for four years from an agreed date.

17. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A. Application for membership

On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-committee, it was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be accepted as a member church of the WCC. This church, which begins its new life officially on 1 January 1988, is the result of the union of the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

B. Election of a General Secretary

1. Voting procedures: At its meeting in January 1987 the Central Committee adopted procedures to elect a General Secretary (Minutes pp. 128-131). The draft of the last chapter on voting procedures was considered by the Nominations Sub-committee which recommended that the proposed procedures be adopted. It further requested the staff to work out terms of reference to guide the Executive Committee in the event of an emergency situation as mentioned.

The Executive Committee adopted the section on voting procedures, as follows:

VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION OF A GENERAL SECRETARY

A. The report of the Search Committee will be made in writing to a closed session of the Central Committee. The Committee in its report may say as much of the manner of its working as it has decided. A printed curriculum vitae of the nominee shall be circulated to Central Committee members.

B. The moderator will allow time for questions and discussion.

C. After due discussion, the Central Committee will decide, by simple majority of those members and substitutes present, whether to close discussion. If positive, the

vote will follow without further discussion. If negative, the moderator will allow further discussion, until the Central Committee agrees to vote.

D. In keeping with the practices of the WCC in staff appointments, the Central Committee will then vote to accept or reject the name presented. No nominations from the floor will be accepted.

E. The vote will be by secret ballot. The moderator of the Central Committee shall appoint three of the Presidents to act as scrutineers. A simple majority of those present and eligible to vote will be decisive for election. If the nominee is not elected, the Central Committee will recess, and the Executive Committee will meet immediately to consider what action to propose to the Central Committee.

F. In the event of a tied vote, the moderator will not cast a deciding ballot, but will allow time for more discussion. A second ballot will take place when the Central Committee agrees to vote again.

G. If the vote is in favour of the nominee, the moderator will announce the result to the Central Committee, thank and discharge the Search Committee. The closed session will be adjourned and the moderator will immediately announce the decision of the Central Committee.

H. At an open session of Central Committee, which will follow immediately, the newly elected General Secretary will be received and invited to address the committee.

2. Re-nomination of the General Secretary

Dr McCloud said that it would be necessary for the Central Committee in August 1988 to make a decision regarding the re-election of the General Secretary. He proposed that, in order for the Executive Committee to fulfil its responsibility of bringing a recommendation to the Central Committee, the Executive Committee request the Presidents to work with the Moderator and Vice-Moderators in preparing such a recommendation for the Executive Committee's consideration at its meeting in Hanover.

Dr McCloud felt that any recommendation for the re-election of the General Secretary should have the broadest possible base of support, and that the Presidents of the WCC, elected by the Assembly, would bring more visibility to that process. It would also provide additional support to the Moderator and Vice-Moderators.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

C. Rotation of Executive Committee members

At the Central Committee in January 1987, Mr W. Thompson had proposed:

> "that the Executive Committee be requested to design a plan for the rotation of not fewer than three members-at-large of the Executive Committee at each meeting of the Central Committee, by dividing the present at-large membership into classes through election by lot or by alphabetical order of surnames and replacing one class at each meeting of the Central Committee by election of the Central Committee on nomination by the Executive Committee with only members of the Central Committee who have not previously served on the Executive Committee eligible for nomination, and that the plan be implemented if adopted at the next meeting of the Central Committee."

Central Committee then agreed that this should be on its agenda in 1988. A paper outlining some of the questions and alternatives was presented and discussed by the Nominations Sub-committee.

The paper recalled the history of the matter. The Central Committee meeting in Nairobi following the Assembly in 1975 agreed "to direct that in the review of the Rules a study be made of the desirability of rotation in Executive Committee membership". The Executive Committee duly studied this question and reported to Central Committee in 1977 that it "did not feel it proper to make any recommendation to the Central Committee. (It recommended) that a special committee of the Central Committee be appointed to examine further this report from the Executive Committee and to make recommendations as to the feasibility of instituting a process of rotation at this time."

The Committee on the General Secretariat in 1977 did recommend "that, at the election of the Executive Committee at each Central Committee, three elected members should not be eligible for re-election". This proposed amendment to the Rules was defeated by the Central Committee.

Dr Talbot presented the report of the Nominations Sub-Committee. While the committee supported the idea of greater democratic participation, it was unsure whether this proposal would achieve the desired result. Bishop Antonie felt that such a proposal should not come from the Executive Committee, but Dr Tolen pointed out that as the Nominations Committee for Central Committee, the Executive Committee could not avoid responsibility for such a proposal. The Sub-committee recommended that the staff be asked to prepare a document presenting the arguments for and against the alternative courses of action for the March meeting of the Executive Committee, which could then be presented as an option to Central Committee.

The Executive Committee <u>accepted</u> this recommendation.

D. Retirement Fund Board

The sub-committee recommended the reappointment of the following members of the Board for three years as from 1 March 1988:

Mr Harry Ashmall
Dr Marga Bührig
Dr Oscar McCloud
Mr Heinz Spaeter

The Committee further recommended that when the resignation of Mr Ashmall from the Central Committee takes effect (August 1988), a replacement should be appointed from the South.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation

E. Visser 't Hooft Endowment Fund Board

The Board had its first meeting in June and elected Prof. Hans Visser 't Hooft (Netherlands) as moderator and Ms Christine Ledger (Australia) as secretary. Two additional members were coopted: Ms Yong Ting Jin of Malaysia and Mr Philippe de Weck of Switzerland.

The other members appointed in January 1987 (in addition to those mentioned above) were Mr Tarek Mitri (Lebanon), Ms Sithembiso Nyoni (Zimbabwe), Dr Philip Potter (Dominica/ Jamaica) and Archbishop Iakovos (USA). Archbishop Iakovos, while willing for his name to be used in support of the Endowment Fund, felt unable because of other commitments to participate in meetings of the Board.

The sub-committee therefore recommended that Ms Claire Randall (USA) be appointed in place of Archbishop Iakovos. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

18. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. 1986 Accounts

The 1986 audited accounts were presented, a copy of which is in the hands of the members of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee approved the 1986 accounts.

2. 1987 Year to Date

The Sub-Committee received a situation report on the current year. On the basis of the anticipated income for 1987 and of the actual spending forecast, the Finance Sub-Committee considers that while the 95% limit on spending imposed on some sub-units by the Central Committee in January 1987 cannot be waived, no further restrictive measures need to be taken at this time by the Executive Committee.

All sub-units have been asked by the General Secretary to make efforts to reduce spending levels as much as possible so as to end the year with higher closing balances, and in this way to be in a better position to face the difficulties anticipated in 1988.

3. 1988 Budget

The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on income projections for 1988 and reviewed the impact of the monetary situation and the effects of the continued decline of the US dollar on the anticipated receipts of the Council. It also discussed possible new sources of income and encouraged OICD to initiate or pursue contacts with foundations, as well as governmental and multilateral sources.

On the basis of the above, the 1988 budget was established with the following assumptions:

a) The proposed 1988 budget is based on full staffing levels in all sub-units.

b) No inflation has been taken into account for salaries because total inflation will not have reached 4% since the last compensation for inflation measure was taken. However, a step increase is included for all staff over the period.

   The salary line is based therefore on actuals + 3%.

c) All other expenses have been estimated on the basis of 1986 and 1987 to date actual expenditures.

d) Meetings, consultations and travel have been estimated on the basis of actual plans of the sub-units.

e) Overhead costs were agreed by the House Committee in December 1986 and show a reduction in 1988 compared to 1987.

f) Unrestricted fund balances for distributed cost centres have been considered used up in 1988, with only the net cost of the cost centre distributed to the sub-unit.

g) The budgetted level of expenditure should not exceed current income plus one third of the operating balance held by the sub-unit.

Under the above conditions, the Sub-Committee noted that:

Except for CWME and Unit II (mainly because of CICARWS) all sub-units meet the requirements of the Executive Committee not to anticipate using more than one third of their operating balances to cover a possible shortfall of income in 1988.

The total expense budget for 1988 is Sfr. 40,779,952, down 1% compared to 1987.

Undesignated income required exceeds the one third limit by 1.4% of the budgetted expenditures of sub-units and cost centres requiring undesignated income. However, in view of the fact that all of the authorised staff positions are never fully staffed through the year, the amount is acceptable.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommended that the 1988 budget (Appendix IV) be approved with the following provisions:

- the RSS budget will be reviewed in March 1988 following the World Consultation at El Escorial;

- CWME is authorised to proceed on the basis of its proposed budget, but will report to the Sub-committee in March on steps taken to reduce its drawdown on fund balances;

- Unit II is only authorised to spend at a level not to exceed 95% of the approved budget, the situation to be reviewed in August 1988.

The Executive Committee approved the 1988 budget with provisos mentioned.

The budget as presented will benefit from an allocation of undesignated interest as approved by the Central Committee in January, noted below, in line with the criteria for new, short term, experimental activities that cannot otherwise be funded. It will be applied toward the costs in the CICARWS budget for "New Post Larnaca Initiatives in Ecumenical Human Resources", a one year experiment by the CICARWS Ecumenical Personnel Secretariat to lay the basis for new programme directions and content for subsequent years. The amount available to the programme from this source is Sfr 100,000.

4. Allocation of undesignated interest

In January, the Central Committee agreed that provided the sum of the General Reserve, the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve and the Emergency Reserve exceeds 8 million Swiss francs, the interest can be allocated one half within the budgetary process and one half outside the budgetary process for new, short term, experimental activities that cannot otherwise be funded.

The amount available for distribution by the Executive Committee outside the budget process for 1988 is Sfr. 200,000.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the proposal for a pilot project of the Ecumenical Institute, "Bossey in Partnership", to extend over the 1988-1989 period with the purpose of fostering closer relations between the Institute and lay training centers and a first step in the direction of Bossey by extension courses. The evaluation of the pilot project will help lay the basis for a new programme of extension work by the Ecumenical Institute. The cost of the pilot project is Sfr. 140,000 over two years.

The Executive Committee approved this request.

5. Special Funding

The Sub-Committee received a report on Special Funding and noted that the fund raising efforts for El Escorial have been successful. The RSS World Consultation has thus been removed from the list of Special Funding authorisations. The Sub-Committee received a report indicating that the CWME Commission was reviewing the approved expense budget for the World Conference (Sfr 1,271,107) and requested that full information regarding any proposed revision in this budget be brought to the March meeting of the Executive Committee, along with a preliminary report on funding efforts. The remaining item on the list of World Conferences and Consultations approved for Special Funding by the Central Committee in July 1985 is the 1990 World Convocation on JPIC. In light of the fact that most donors must plan now to achieve their support of the Seventh Assembly, the Sub-Committee requested that a preliminary budget and asking proposal be reported to the March meeting, with a view toward a final report of plans and askings to be presented at the time of the Hanover Executive Committee meeting in 1988. No other requests for Special Funding have been presented at this time. It is the understanding of the Sub-Committee that plans for world meetings and special events related to the Decade on the Churches in Solidarity with Women will be included in the annual budgets of the Sub-Unit on Women in Church and Society.

6. Expansion of the Ecumenical Centre

The Salève wing has been fully occupied since the month of May. Final accounts will be brought to the Committee in March 1988.

The Finance Sub-Committee considered whether the fully depreciated temporary annexe that is no longer in use should be remodeled and rented out for another five or six years before being demolished, or if it should be dismantled now and the grounds restored. After studying the economics of both solutions, and in view of the fact that the annexe was meant only to be a temporary facility and that the long term economic advantages do not warrant the WCC keeping it, the Finance Sub-Committee recommended that the temporary annexe be dismantled as early as possible.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

7. Seventh Assembly preliminary budget

The Sub-Committee received the preliminary budget for the Canberra Assembly (Appendix IV). It is obviously too early to be precise at this stage, since the Assembly Preparation Committee's first meeting will only be held in December. The Sub-Committee discussed the proposal and asked that it be referred to the Assembly Planning Committee as a preliminary framework for their initial planning session. Following their initial reflection, a revised budget will be brought to the Executive Committee in March 1988 for final decision.

8. Banks and South Africa

The Sub-Committee received copy of letters from almost all of the banks with which the Council has relationships in response to the new criteria adopted by the Executive Committee in January 1987 regarding private and interbank loans, and lending to Namibia and the Bantustans.

Two more responses are expected shortly. After consultation with the PCR staff, a complete report will be presented to the Sub-committee in March 1988.

9. Financial policies

The Sub-Committee reviewed three areas of WCC policy on finance.

9.1 Use of Available Funds

The Finance Sub-Committee recommended that the following consolidated body of present policies of the WCC be affirmed by the Executive Committee:

Use of Funds

When an expense can be legitimately covered by two sources of funds, the most designated funds will be used first.

The order of use of funds is therefore always from most designated to least designated.

Less designated funds will only be used when more designated funds (that can be legitimately used) have been exhausted.

Designation of Funds

Some funds are designated by the donor, others by WCC Governing Bodies, Commissions and Working Groups.

Before using less designated funds, the origin of the designation of more designated funds will be checked.

When funds have been designated by Commissions and Working Groups, or by Governing Bodies of the Council, attempts will be made to obtain redesignation of such funds from those bodies so as to allow their use before less designated funds are drawn on.

Designated funds cannot be used for one purpose if they have been designated by a donor for another purpose, unless prior agreement is obtained from that donor.

When funds have been set aside by staff decision as a provision for a specific purpose, staff will reconsider whether such provisions are still necessary before less designated funds can be used.

If a programme or activity has been oversubscribed with funds designated for that programme or activity in any one year, attempts will be made to obtain a redesignation (or reallocation) of excess funds for another undersubscribed purpose.

The Executive Committee affirmed these policies.

9.2 Travel Expenses

The Finance Sub-Committee recommended that the Executive Committee extend the policy it accepted for itself in September 1986 to all members of Commissions and Working Groups and instruct the General Secretary to communicate this policy to them, informing them that this policy is applicable immediately.

The staff were requested to develop a similar policy to apply to the Central Committee. This policy will be considered by the Finance Sub-Committee and recommended to the Central Committee for its approval.

The Executive Committee agreed to this recommendation.

9.3 Allocation of Undesignated Funds

The Sub-Committee reviewed the existing policies of the WCC regarding the allocation of undesignated funds. Following a first round of discussions, the staff is requested to do further work on this issue in order to see how the objectives of the Sixth Assembly on this matter are being met, and to bring recommendations to the Executive Committee in March 1988.

10. Other contributions

The Sub-Committee received a report on the two-part study requested by the Central Committee in 1984:

1) to further develop methods for the receipt and use of alternative support toward the programme budget, such as material aid and in-kind contributions of the member churches; and

2) to study models and identify patterns of funding by which member churches can contribute to the WCC.

This work was to provide background considerations on the longer-term request of the Sixth Assembly to develop a statement of principle to eventually be included in the WCC Rules that each member church provide a "minimum tangible sign" of its commitment to and membership in the Council.

After evaluating the results of the study of alternative support, the Sub-Committee concluded that it had been a worthwhile effort in understanding and confirming the models of sharing between the member churches and the Council, and expressed appreciation to staff for the efforts to date. The

Sub-Committee recommended that this part of the study now be concluded, and that a report be brought to the March meeting of the Executive Committee which would: a) propose a model or models of the kind of statement to be included in the Council's annual financial report regarding non-financial contributions to the WCC, and b) serve as a discussion paper to enable the Sub-Committee to prepare a statement for transmittal to the Committee on the General Secretariat in August 1988 regarding a "minimum tangible sign" of membership in the WCC.

The study of financial models and patterns of funding by which member churches can contribute to the WCC has permitted both clearer analysis and encouraged appropriate levels of askings. The tools developed in the course of the study are now on-going aspects of OICD's work, and no further reporting to the Sub-Committee is required at this time.

11. Financial implications of staff appointments

All proposed appointments are within the 1988 budget. The Finance Sub-committee wishes to express its appreciation for the efforts made by staff to stay within budget, even if it recognizes that part of the savings made are the result of staff vacancies. In this context the Finance Sub-Committee feels it must place on record a word of warning concerning immediate restaffing of positions vacant at present. Especially within CICARWS and Unit II (and CWME), the resources available in 1988 are not sufficient to cover the expenses of full staffing levels. The Committee will need to consider carefully this situation for any staffing decisions that it would wish to take before the end of 1988.

12. Acknowledgements

Dr McCloud expressed deep appreciation for the work of the Finance staff, not only those present in Atlanta but those working in the Geneva offices, and asked that the gratitude of the Finance Committee be conveyed to them.

19. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Programme Sub-Committee reviewed dates for future meetings and proposed some modifications in light of the venues and local programmes. It was informed of the invitation from Patriarch Teoctist for the Executive Committee to meet in Bucharest, Romania, in March 1989. It also proposed dates for the Central Committee in 1990 for approval by the Central Committee in August 1988. It recommended the following dates:
(inclusive of day of arrival and departure) up to the Seventh Assembly:

1988	5-13 March	Istanbul, Turkey	Executive Committee
	7-10 August	Hanover, FRG	Executive Committee
	11-20 August	Hanover, FRG	Central Committee

	12-18	Geneva	
1989	11-19 February	~~Bucharest, Romania~~	Executive Committee
	12-15 July	Moscow, USSR	Executive Committee
	16-27 July	Moscow, USSR	Central Committee
1990	15-18 March	Geneva	Executive Committee
	19-24 March	Geneva	Central Committee
	23-29 September	Geneva	Executive Committee
1991	3-6 February	Canberra, Australia	Executive Committee

The Sub-committee proposed that the dates for Central Committee in 1990 be reviewed in March 1988 in relation to the JPIC Convocation.

The Sub-committee further recommended that the invitation extended by Metropolitan Antonie on behalf of Patriarch Teoctist for the Executive Committee to meet in Bucharest be accepted with gratitude.

The Executive Committee approved these recommendations.

10. CLOSING ACTIONS

The General Secretary reported that Mr Harry Ashmall had resigned from Central Committee in order that someone else from the Church of Scotland could be involved before the Canberra Assembly. He read a letter received from Mr Ashmall regretting that he was unable to attend this or the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Moderator said that Mr Ashmall's decision to resign from Central Committee would be accepted with regret but with admiration; it was agreed that the General Secretary communicate to him the gratitude of the Executive Committee for his participation in its deliberations over many years.

With regard to the encounter with the Black Churches, the General Secretary said that further discussion and evaluation of this experience could take place at the next meeting of the Committee in March. Bishop Hempel asked if we could obtain some reactions from the Black Church representatives about our presence and our meeting. Dr Tolen proposed that members of the Executive Committee send a note about their impressions to Geneva for inclusion in the final report on the meeting. Ms Campbell reported that the Black Churches had decided to meet again in December to follow up the dialogue and assess the experience; they would share this with the Executive Committee.

On behalf of the Executive Committee the General Secretary expressed deep gratitude to the friends in Atlanta for their hospitality. In particular he thanked Mayor Andrew Young and Mrs Young; Dr James Costen of ITC, and the staff of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta. He also thanked Dr Sylvia Talbot, and her husband Bishop Frederick Talbot, for their untiring work in preparing for the meeting. He also expressed thanks to the US members of the Executive Committee, the staff of the US Office and all those who had contributed to the planning of the meeting.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dr Marga Bührig
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
	Most Rev. W.P. Khotso Makhulu
	Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held (Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
	Mr Bena-Silu
	Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo
	Ms Joyce Kaddu
	Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk
	Dr Janice Love
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
	Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan
	Rev. Meinrad Piske
	Ms Jean Skuse
	Dr Aaron Tolen
	Mr Per Voksoe
Consultants:	Rev. Dr Avery Post
	Bishop Sergiy of Solnechogorsk
	Grand Protopresbyter Georges Tsetsis
Guests:	Revd Dr Paul A Crow, Jr
	Revd Dr Lewis Lancaster
	Fr John Travis
	Mayor Andrew Young attended part of the session on Tuesday morning 22 September
Staff:	Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin
	Rev. Joan Campbell
	Ms Andrea Cano
	Mr Dan Clark
	Mr Patrick Coïdan
	Mr Trevor Davies
	Mr Nathaniel Gamble
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann
	Dr Adriaan Geense
	Rev. Dr David Gosling
	Rev. Anna-Karin Hammar
	Rev. Heikki Huttunen
	Mr Ninan Koshy
	Ms Deborah Marcantel

	Mr James Mutambirwa
	Dr Preman Niles
	Ms Mercy Oduyoye
	Mr Levi Oracion
	Ms Edna Palmer
	Rev. Dr Clifford Payne
	Rev. William A. Perkins
	Mr Hugh Pettingell
	Dr John Pobee
	Dr Klaus Poser
	Dr Eric Ram
	Prof. Todor Sabev
	Ms Ruth Sovik
	Dr Eugene Stockwell
Interpreters:	Ms Zinaida Nossova
	Ms Renate Sbeghen
	Ms Ursula Zierl
Minute writer:	Ms Rosemary Green
Administration:	Ms Heidi Schweizer

APOLOGIES

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow
	Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East
Officer:	Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra
Members:	Mr Harry Ashmall
	Dr Karoly Toth

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

Revd S.A.E. Nababan - Acting Moderator
Metropolitan Chrysostomos - Moderator (not present)
Metropolitan Antonie
Bishop Dr Johannes Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Revd Meinrad Piske
Dr Aaron Tolen
Bishop Karoly Toth (not present)

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Revd Dr J. Oscar McCloud - Moderator
Mr Harry Ashmall (not present)
Mr Béna-Silu
Revd Puafitu Faa'alo
Metropolitan Paulos Mar Gregorios
Ms Jean Skuse
Mr Per Voksoe
Very Revd Lois Wilson

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot - Moderator
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow (not present)
Dr Marga Bührig
Archbishop Kirill
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu

APPENDIX III

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

APPROVED LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1987

I. GROUPS OF THE RACIALLY OPPRESSED

	US Dollars	
AFRICA		
African National Congress (ANC) *	110.000	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) *	35.000	
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)*	115.000	
South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) *	10.000	270.000
ASIA		
Japan		
National Conference of Minority People in Japan *	5.000	
The National Christian Coalition on Alien Registration Law Issues	2.000	
Taiwan		
Mountain Work Committee *	1.000	8.000
OCEANIA		
Australia		
Western Desert Land Council *	5.000	
New Zealand		
Kai Mohio Kai Marama Trust	5.000	10.000
EUROPE		
Federal Republic of Germany		
Central Council of German Sinti and Roma *	5.000	
Initiative Black Germans	10.000	
Finland		
World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) *	3.000	
France		
Association of Turkish Workers *	4.000	
Association of Haitian Immigrant Workers in France * last time	4.000	
Movement for the Defence of the Rights of the Black Women *	4.000	
United Kingdom		
Southall Monitoring Group (SMG) * last time	3,000	
Migrants Action Group (MAG) *	5.000	
Association of Black Clergy (ABC)	6.000	44.000
to bring forward		332.000

		US Dollars
brought forward		332.000
LATIN AMERICA		
Brazil		
National Ecumenical Commission to Combat Racism	6.000	
Institute for Research of Black Cultures	5.000	11.000
NORTH AMERICA		
Canada		
Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council *	4.000	
Council of the Haida Nation *	4.000	
Kaska Dena Council *	5.000	
Native Women's Association of Canada	7.000	
Lubicon Lake Band *	5.000	
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) *	3.000	
USA		
Asian Law Caucus (ALC) *	5.000	
Black Hills Steering Committee *	8.000	
National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) *	10.000	
People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (PULSE)	4.000	
Southern Organization for Sisters Networking (SOS Network)	5.000	
Training and Research Institute on Migration (TRIM) *	5.000	
UHANE-KAHEA, Hawaii	5.000	
World Council of Indigenous Peoples, Hawaii	4.000	74.000
Total Groups of the Racially Oppressed		417.000

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

ASIA		
Japan		
Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee (*)		5.000
OCEANIA		
Australia		
Aboriginal Advisory Group	7.000	
Campaign Against Racial Exploitation (Australia) Inc. (CARE) *	2.000	
New Zealand		
Hart Aotearoa *	2.000	11.000
to bring forward		16.000

	US Dollars	
brought forward		16.000
EUROPE		
Belgium		
Social Service for Foreigners *	5.000	
Federal Republic of Germany		
Information Centre on Southern Africa (ISSA) and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAB) *	6.000	
France		
French Anti-Apartheid Movement *	6.000	
The Netherlands		
Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid (AWEPAA)	10.000	
United Kingdom		
Namibia Communications Centre *	4.000	
All Faiths For One Race (AFFOR)	6.000	
Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement (WAAM) *	3.000	40.000
NORTH AMERICA		
Canada		
Focus on the North *	5.000	
Native Peoples Support Group of Newfoundland & Labrador	2.000	
USA		
American Committee On Africa (ACOA) *	15.000	
Center For Democratic Renewal *	5.000	
Coalition for a New Foreign Policy	10.000	
Columbia River Indian Litigation Committee	5.000	
East Coast Farmworker Support Network, Inc. *	5.000	
Southern Africa Programme, American Friends Service Committee	4.000	
Southerners for Economic Justice, Inc. *	5.000	56.000
Total Support Groups		112.000
Total Groups of the Racially oppressed		417.000
Additional grant to group in Brazil (see over page)		10.000
Total Allocations 1987		539.000

Total applications 56

(*) Movements which received grants before

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

Supplement to the
1987 grants approved by the
Executive Committee of the
World Council of Churches,
Atlanta GA, USA, September 1987

The Indigenous Women's Education Group (Grupo Mulher E Educaçao Indigenas) was recommended by the Commission of the Programme to Combat Racism for a grant from the Special Fund. The Executive Committee requested further information on this group. This information has been received and the group can now be included in the list of the 1987 approved grants, as follows:

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Brazil

Grupo Mulher E Educaçao Indigenas
(The Indigenous Women's Education Group)

The Indigenous Women's Education Group is the first organized women's group which does not limit itself to domestic role play, but focuses on broader issues of a national concern, i.e. primarily all forms of discrimination. The women are organized at a national level through a planned conscientization programme. The organization works with popular movements and with the Church.

The group is requesting funds from PCR for the first time. The money will be used for executing educational programmes, paying attention to making women aware of their rights in their society. Funds are also requested for setting up the office.

US$ 10.000

1988 Budget

Budget Entity	Total Expenses Budget	Internal Recoveries & Transfers	Net Expenses Budget	Income	Transfers from Fund Balances	Allocation Undesignated Income
General Secretariat	1,670,080		1,670,080	20,000		1,650,080
U S Office	448,950		448,950	64,950		384,000
O I C D	502,620	401,760	100,860		100,860	
Governing Bodies	769,692	769,692	0			
Library	575,604	489,600	86,004	101,500	-15,496	
Documentation Service	118,946	113,460	5,486		5,486	
Conference & Travel Office	214,218	232,500	-18,282	37,000	-55,282	
Resource Sharing Office	564,685	266,981	297,704	260,000	37,704	
Total General Secretariat	4,864,796	2,273,993	2,590,803	483,450	73,273	2,034,080
Faith & Order	1,368,683	7,875	1,360,808	364,687	222,209	773,912
C W M E	2,599,652		2,599,652	2,171,631	428,021	
Dialogue	979,763	63,891	915,872	290,419		625,453
Church & Society	745,934		745,934	214,780	100,000	431,154
Unit I General	4,500		4,500	2,100		2,400
Total Unit I	5,698,531	71,766	5,626,765	3,043,617	750,230	1,832,919
C I C A R W S	10,407,624	4,193,012	6,214,612	5,713,374	501,238	
Unit II Service Programme	7,515,681	431,965	7,083,716	5,604,090	1,479,626	
J P I C	648,793	20,000	628,793	628,793		
C C I A	1,388,528	885,963	502,565	502,565		
P C R	1,385,169	596,346	788,823	788,823		
C C P D	1,964,529	1,572,287	392,241	315,107	77,134	
C M C	1,916,847	375,446	1,541,402	1,424,894	116,508	
Total Unit II	25,227,172	8,075,020	17,152,153	14,977,646	2,174,506	
Renewal & Congregational Life	680,438		680,438	374,884	40,000	265,554
Youth	707,811	50,000	657,811	392,627	98,000	167,184
Women	1,031,229	72,000	959,229	860,249	98,980	
Young Women Doing Theology	162,496	62,496	100,000	100,000		
Education	2,889,993	171,600	2,718,393	2,696,316	22,077	
P T E	1,661,876		1,661,876	1,361,506	300,370	
Unit III General	51,750	40,000	11,750			11,750
Total Unit III	7,185,592	396,096	6,789,496	5,785,582	559,426	444,488
Communication	7,468,798	2,912,900	4,555,898	1,342,203	718,099	2,495,596
Ecumenical Institute Bossey	2,250,754	815,600	1,435,154	1,270,000	-7,646	172,800
Finance & Central Services	6,771,844	4,209,913	2,561,931	2,148,707	413,224	
Seventh Assembly Reserve	300,000		300,000			300,000
Over-recoveries		232,248	-232,248		-132,248	-100,000
Undesignated Income				6,000,000		
Operating Balance					1,000,000	
	59,767,487	18,987,536	40,779,952	35,051,205	5,548,864	7,179,883

APPENDIX IV cont'd

SEVENTH ASSEMBLY PRELIMINARY BUDGET

	ITEM	Sfr
1.	Assembly Planning Committee	280,000
2.	Assembly Worship (Committee, on-site expenses)	183,000
3.	Assembly Office	1,161,400
4.	Publications	1,330,000
5.	Communications (travel, accommodation, facilities)	360,060
6.	Provision for participants' subsidies	2,205,000
7.	Language Services (travel, accommodation, salaries, equipment, stewards)	1,394,141
8.	Staff/Coopted Staff (travel, accommodation)	718,650
9.	Stewards (travel, accommodation, local expenses)	547,125
10.	On-site administration, general expenses	627,500
11.	Miscellaneous on-site expenses	300,000
12.	Contingencies (15%)	1,381,124
	TOTAL PRELIMINARY BUDGET	10,488,000

APPENDIX V

GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AT THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

1. Before the allocation of seats for the Vancouver Assembly, there was a thorough review of the policy and procedures which had been followed at previous assemblies. Proposals were discussed by the Executive Committee and then shared with the member churches before presentation to and adoption by the Central Committee in 1980. Special efforts had been made to have proper balances between confessions and regions, and to provide for adequate numbers of women and youth. The results seemed to have met with general satisfaction on the part of the churches. The following proposals are based on the Vancouver policies and criteria.

2. The Executive Committee in March 1986 proposed that "the number of elegates [at Canberra] be kept as low as possible but should not exceed 1000." (The number of seats allocated for Vancouver was 910, although only 847 delegates attended.)

3. In considering the size of the assembly, one must also take into account the need to have a well-balanced assembly with adequate participation of the Orthodox churches, of women and of youth. The goals proposed are: Orthodox churches (Eastern and Oriental): 25%; women 40%; youth 15%. If these goals are accepted, the minimum number of delegates would need to be between 850 and 900.

4. The WCC Rules provide as follows for the appointment of delegates:

   a. Each (full) member church shall be entitled to a minimum of one delegate; (associate member churches have one non-voting representative);

   b. The member churches shall nominate and elect no less than 85% of the delegates;

   c. The Central Committee may nominate to the churches no more than 15% of the delegates in order to achieve proper balances.

   With regard to the latter category of 15%, the churches are to be invited to propose the names of persons whom they would be willing to appoint as additional delegates if they are nominated by the Central Committee.

   This provision for the appointment of additional delegates (up to 15%) is to be used only to achieve the necessary balances according to the criteria regarding the composition of delegations (i.e. lay/ordained, men/women, youth, etc.) These criteria are to be decided by the Central Committee in August 1988 together with the allocation of seats.

These additional delegates (in the 15% category) would be nominated only to member churches that have followed the criteria accepted by the Central Committee with regard to the composition of their delegations. Furthermore, a church would not be eligible to have more delegates in the 15% category than it had in its original allocation (i.e. a church which had originally been allocated two delegates could not have more than two additional delegates appointed according to the 15% rule).

5. Special attention has been given to the Orthodox concern with regard to the increasing number of member churches and the limited representation of the local Orthodox churches around the world which are not autonomous. This is a legitimate concern that must be addressed in allocating seats for the Seventh Assembly.

   It is therefore proposed that allocations to the Orthodox and other churches with a high percentage of membership in other countries than their "home" or "headquarters" country and where these local churches are not autonomous would be based on the number of members in the different regions rather than on the total for the church. The number of delegates for the church would thereby be increased on the understanding that the member church would then appoint the number of delegates from the regions according to the allocations.

APPENDIX VI

SEVENTH ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS

1. Central Committee has the overall responsibility for Assembly planning, but has appointed a sub-committee of its members, the Assembly Planning Committee (APC), to do the detailed work.

   Central Committee will appoint (August 1988) an Assembly Worship Committee (AWC, - composed of persons selected for their experience and skills in worship - not necessarily Central Committee members) to prepare this element of the Assembly. Central Committee will receive reports and recommendations for action from the APC and the AWC.

   Central Committee will also appoint (in 1990) a Preparation for Nominations Committee from among the delegates already appointed by the churches to prepare the work of the Nominations Committee at the Assembly.

2. Between meetings of the Central Committee, the Executive Committee will receive reports from the APC and AWC for guidance and comment. It may need to take some actions which would be essential for these committees to be able to continue their work until the next meeting of the Central Committee.

   The Executive Committee is responsible for:

   Matters arising regarding allocation of seats to delegates (after decisions by the Central Committee in August 1988)
   Invitations to other categories of participants
   Business of the Assembly, committees and internal processes
   Matters arising relating to practical arrangements
   Finance

   The moderator of the APC will serve as a consultant to and attend meetings of the Executive Committee.

3. The Assembly Planning Committee (APC) is responsible for the following and reports and makes recommendations on these matters to the Central Committee and/or the Executive Committee:

   Theme
   Shape, style and dynamics
   Programme structure and content
   Major speakers and other leadership
   Participation and balances: regional, confessional, women, youth, disabled, special interest groups, etc.
   Pre-assembly women's and youth meetings
   Visitors' programme
   Publications

The APC will receive reports from the AWC and be responsible for overseeing the integration of worship with other aspects of the life and programme of the Assembly. The moderator of the AWC will serve as a consultant to the APC and participate fully in its work.

The APC will also be kept informed on all other Assembly-related matters which might have a bearing on its work.

4. The Assembly Worship Committee (AWC) is responsible for developing a plan and preparing for worship at the Assembly. This includes

> Concern for the overall worship life and animation and ensuring that all traditions are recognized and new creativity developed
> Preparation of resources for worship at the Assembly
> Selection of leadership, etc.

The AWC will report its work to the APC and will prepare a joint report with the APC to the Central Committee and/or Executive Committee.

The moderator of the AWC will be an invited adviser to the Central Committee.

5. Under the leadership of the General Secretary, the staff will work to facilitate the work of all the bodies responsible for Assembly planning as outlined above and to prepare the necessary papers and proposals as directed by the governing bodies, the APC or the AWC.

Schedule of preparations for the Seventh Assembly
(provisional - revised following Central Committee decisions January 1987)

1987 September	The Executive Committee (Atlanta) will consider guidelines for the allocation of seats, review the plan for preparations and have a preliminary discussion on the theme.
1987 December	The APC will meet (Geneva) to organize its work, discuss goals, theme and style.
1988 March	The Executive Committee (Istanbul) will finalize recommendations regarding the allocation of seats for the Central Committee and receive a progress report from the APC.
1988 August	The APC will have its second meeting (Hannover) to finalize its recommendations to Central Committee on the theme, style and related matters. Central Committee will decide on the theme and respond to other recommendations of the APC, decide on the allocation of seats and appoint the Worship Committee.
1989 February	The Executive Committee will consider assembly matters as may be necessary.
1989 April	The APC will have its third meeting (Canberra).
1989 July	Central Committee (Moscow) will receive the APC report, review plans and make recommendations to the APC regarding the programme of the Assembly.
?	The Worship Committee will have its first meeting (in Canberra).
1990 March	The APC will have its fourth meeting (Geneva). The Central Committee (Geneva) will review plans for the Assembly, and appoint a Preparation for Nominations Committee. (This meeting would be shorter than usual and with a limited number of [non-member] participants.)
?	The Worship Committee will meet.
1990 September	The APC and the Executive Committee will both meet (Geneva) and review Assembly plans.
?	The Worship Committee will meet.
1991 February	Seventh Assembly